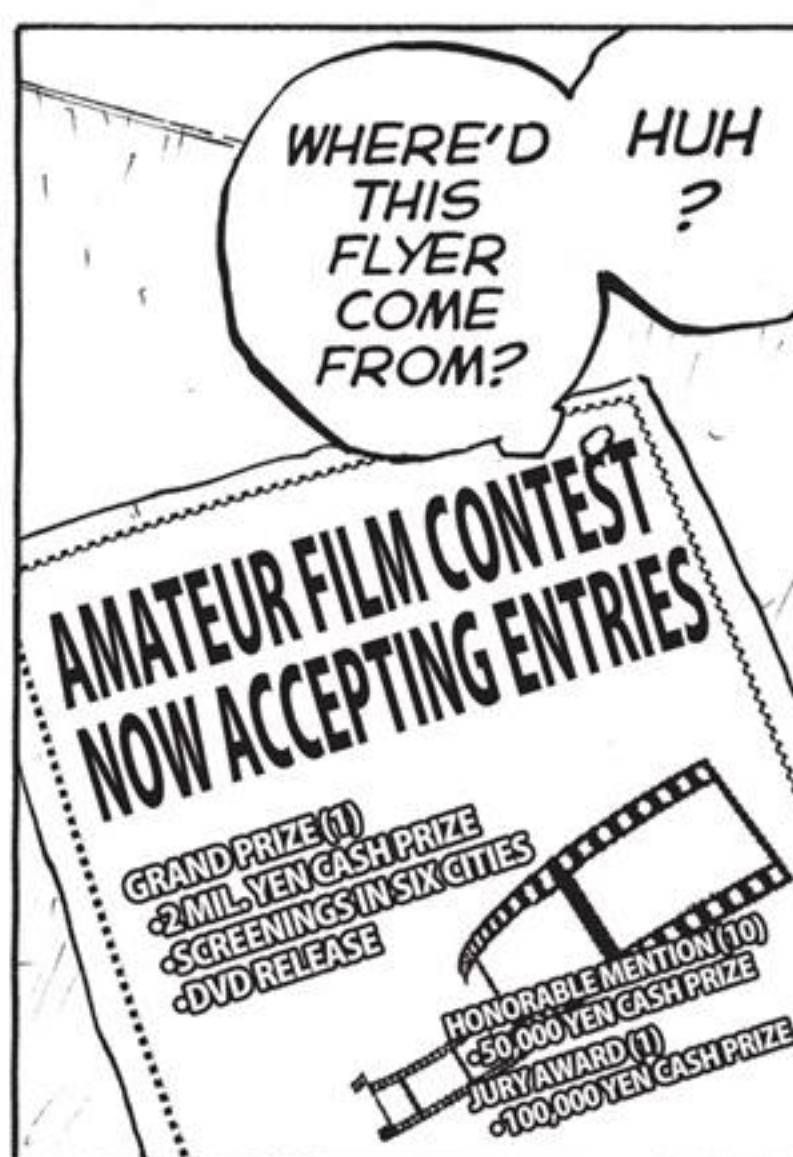




CHAPTER 17: MEANINGFUL PRESENCE



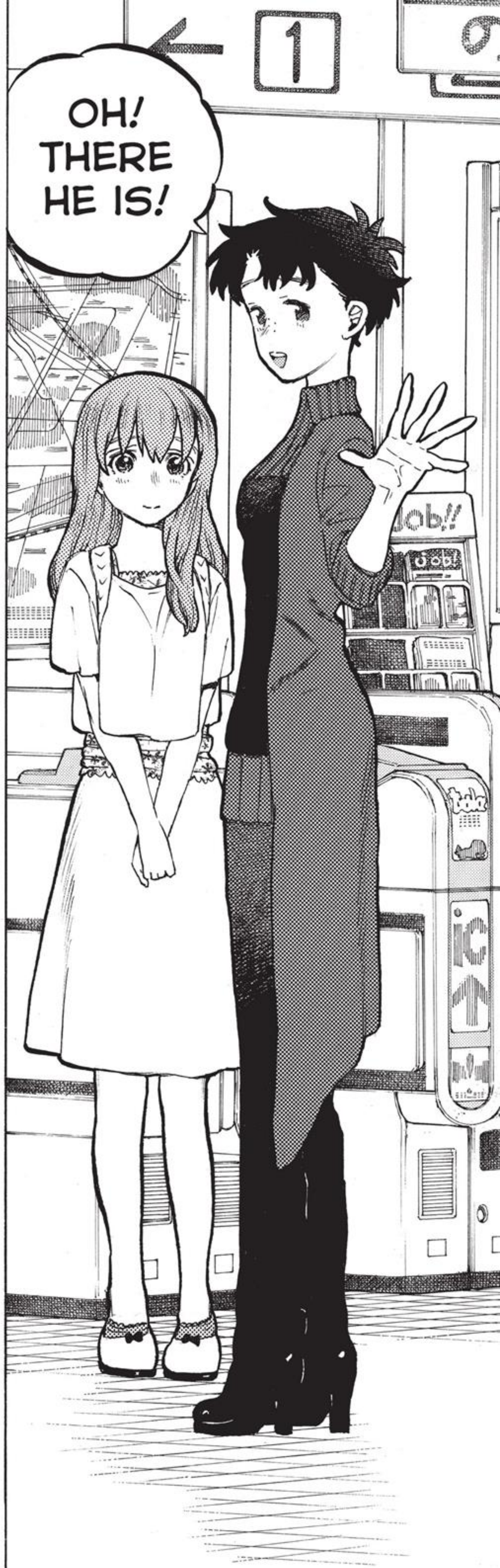


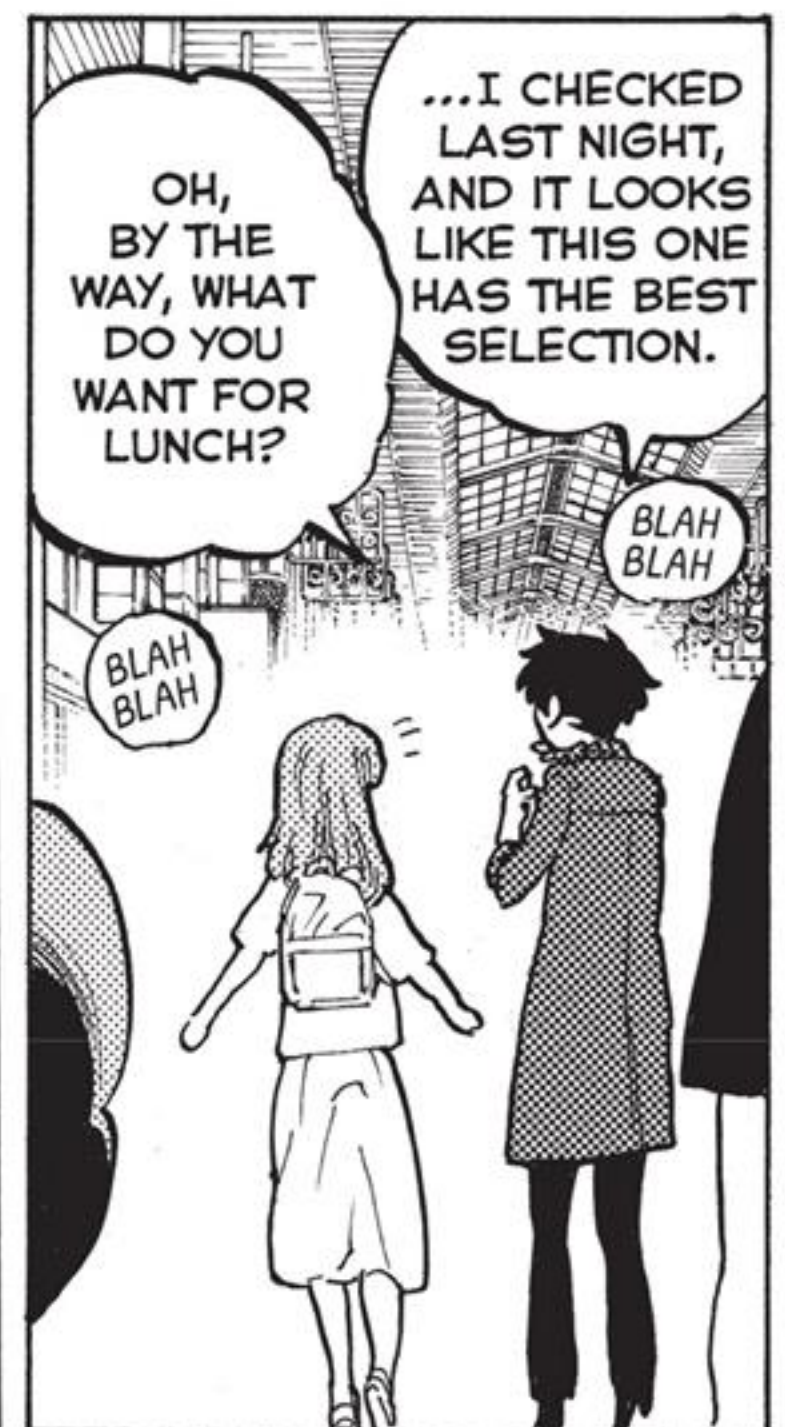
from: **Miyoko Sahara**

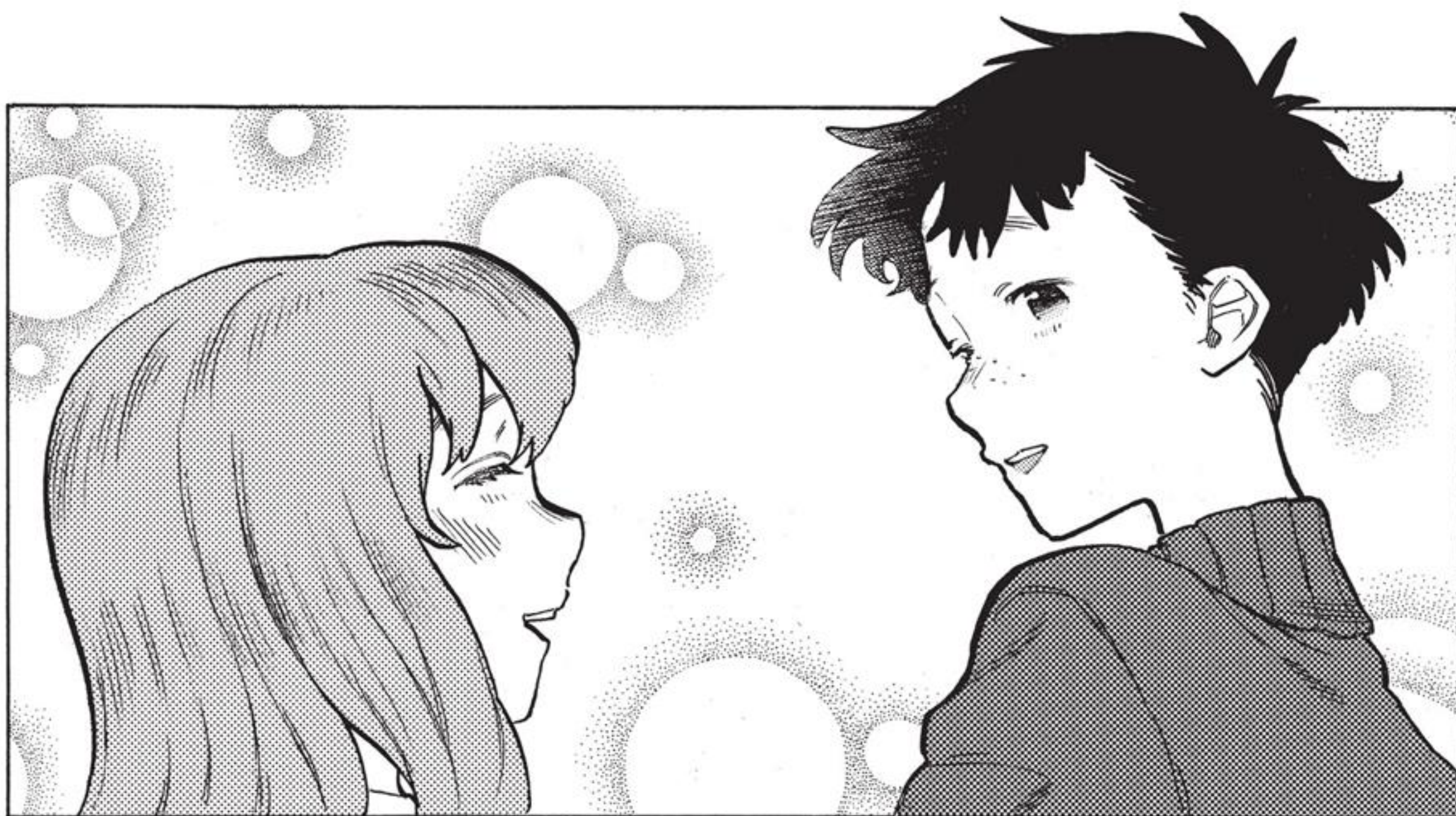
sub: **Wanna hang out?**

With me and Shoko.
We're meeting at 10:30 Sunday
at the station.
If you do come, bring plenty
of money. LOL
Cuz we're gonna have all
kinds of fun. (^▽^)

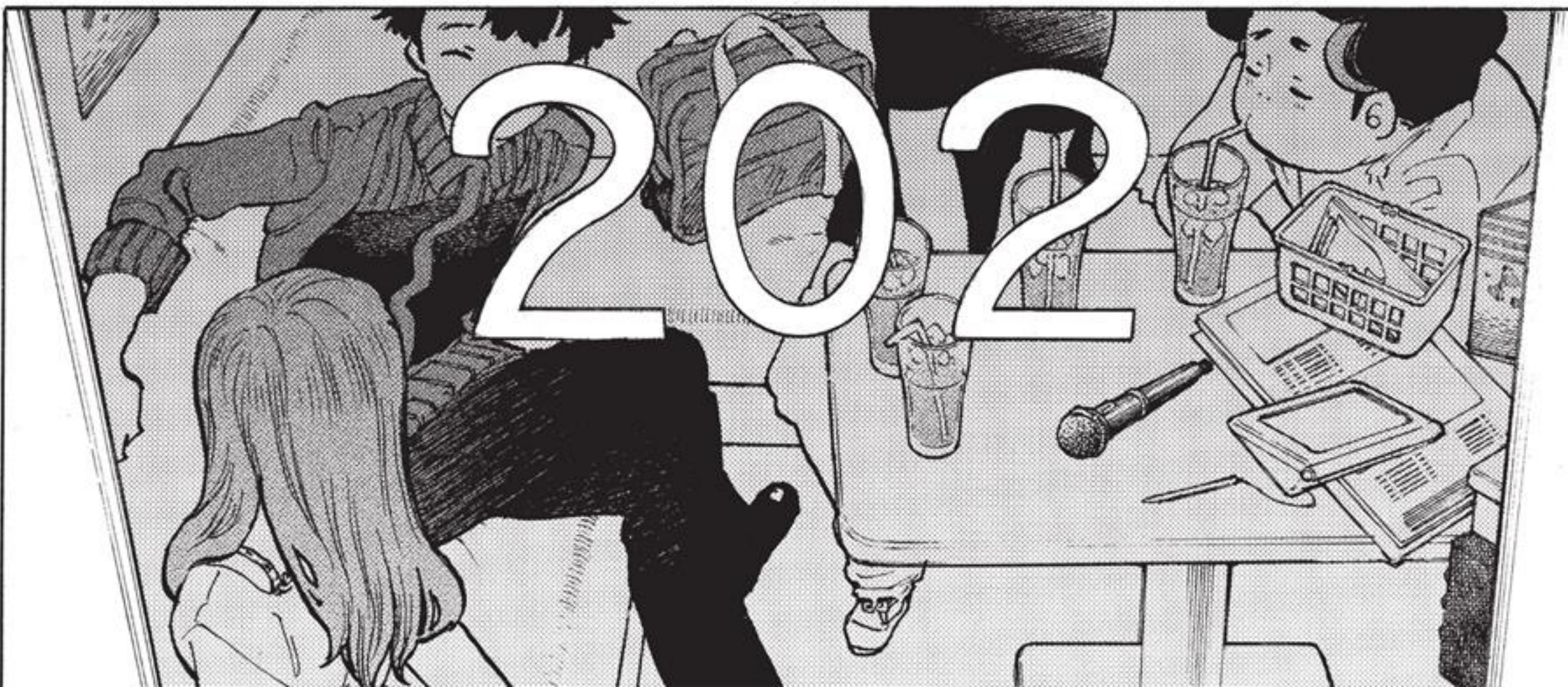










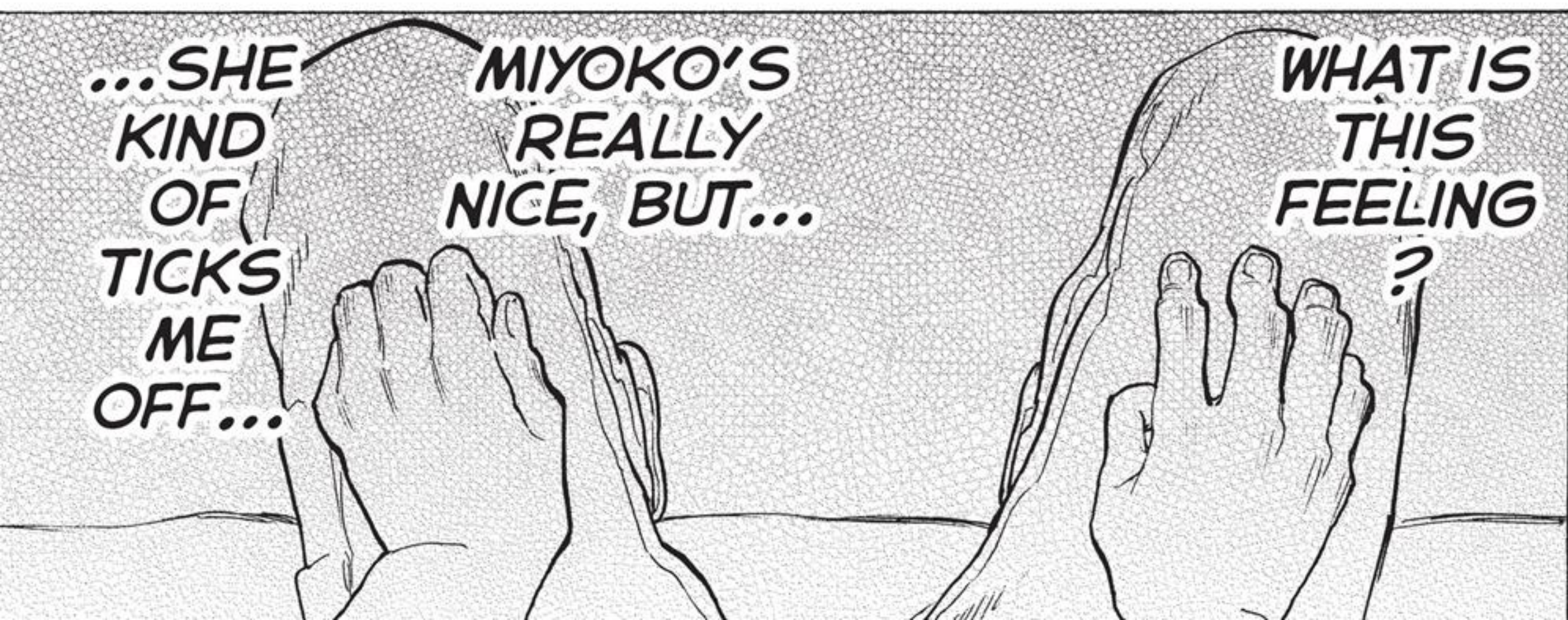


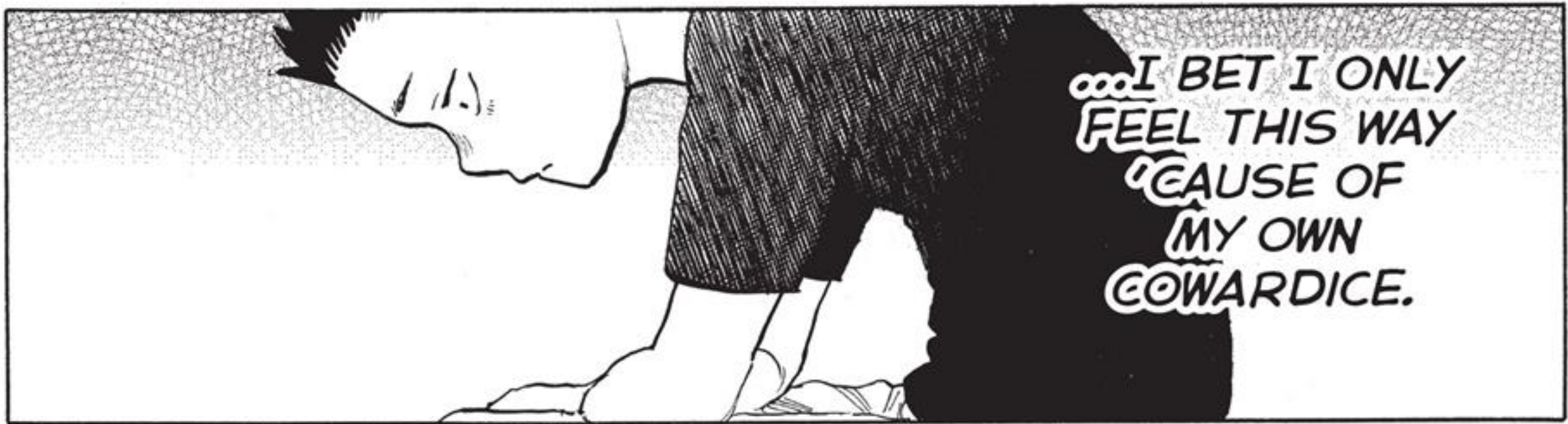




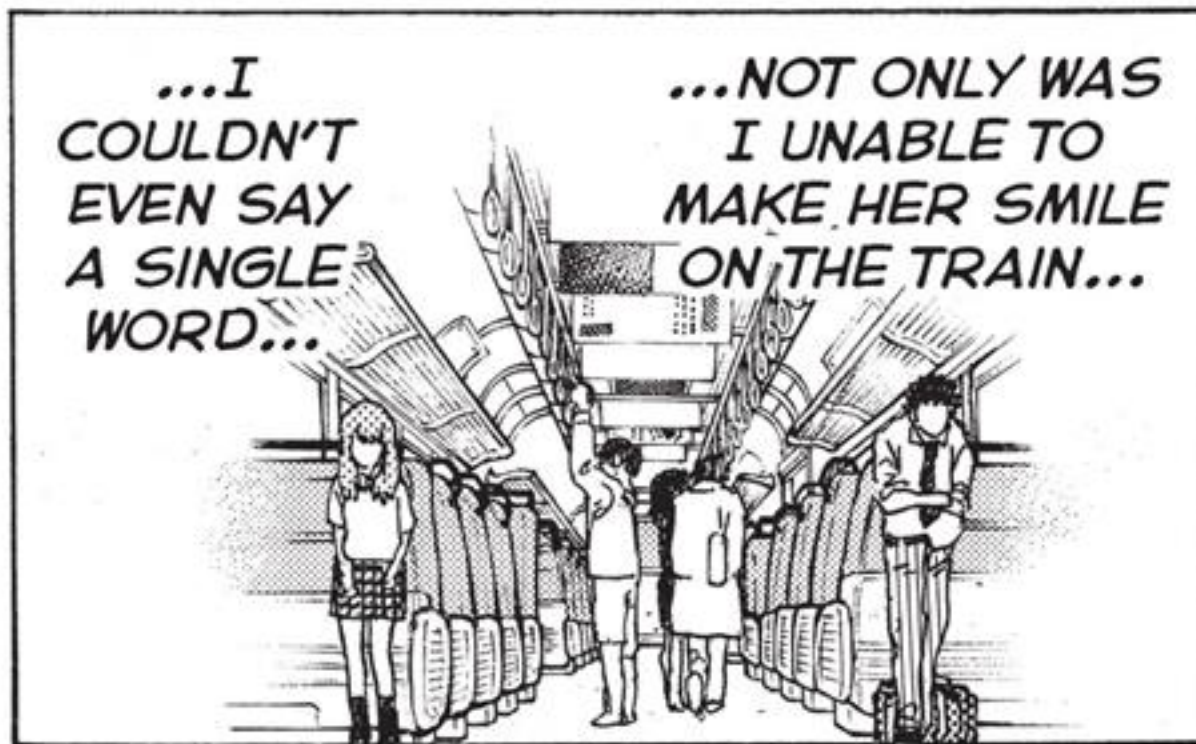
SHE'S
ALREADY
SINGING.







...I BET I ONLY
FEEL THIS WAY
'CAUSE OF
MY OWN
COWARDICE.



...I
COULDN'T
EVEN SAY
A SINGLE
WORD...

...NOT ONLY WAS
I UNABLE TO
MAKE HER SMILE
ON THE TRAIN...



EVEN AFTER
YELLING THAT
AT THE TOP OF
MY LUNGS...

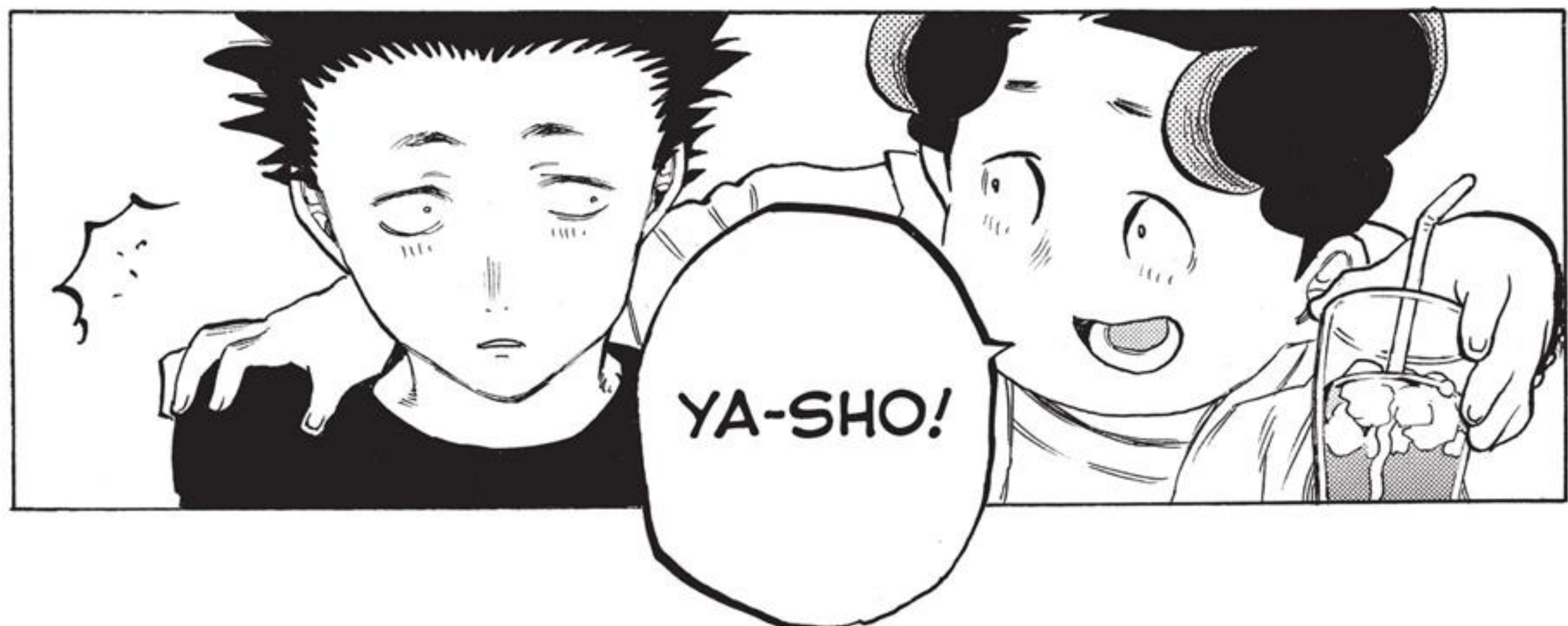
I WANT
TO
DEDICATE
MY
LIFE...

...TO
NISHI-
MIYA!!

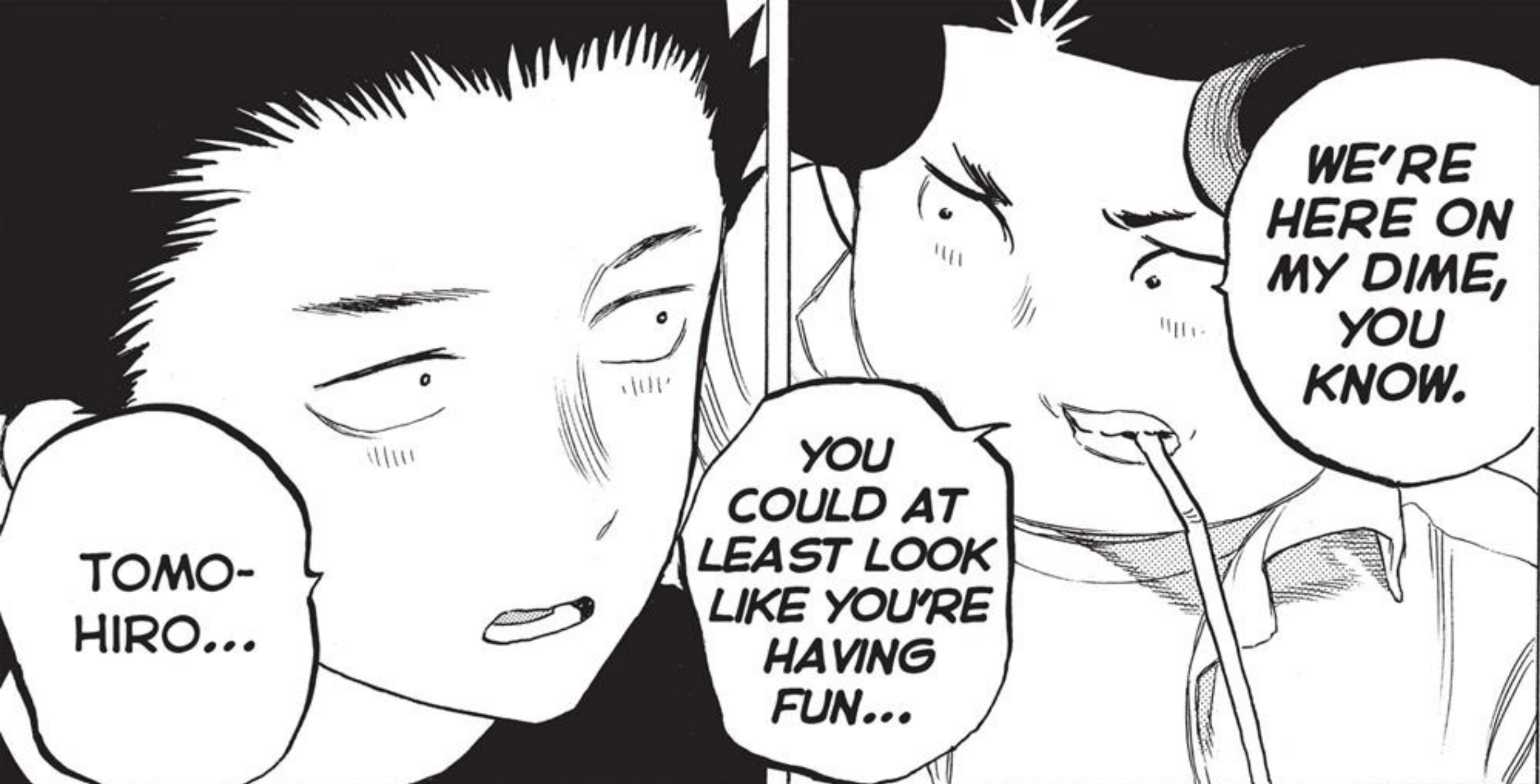


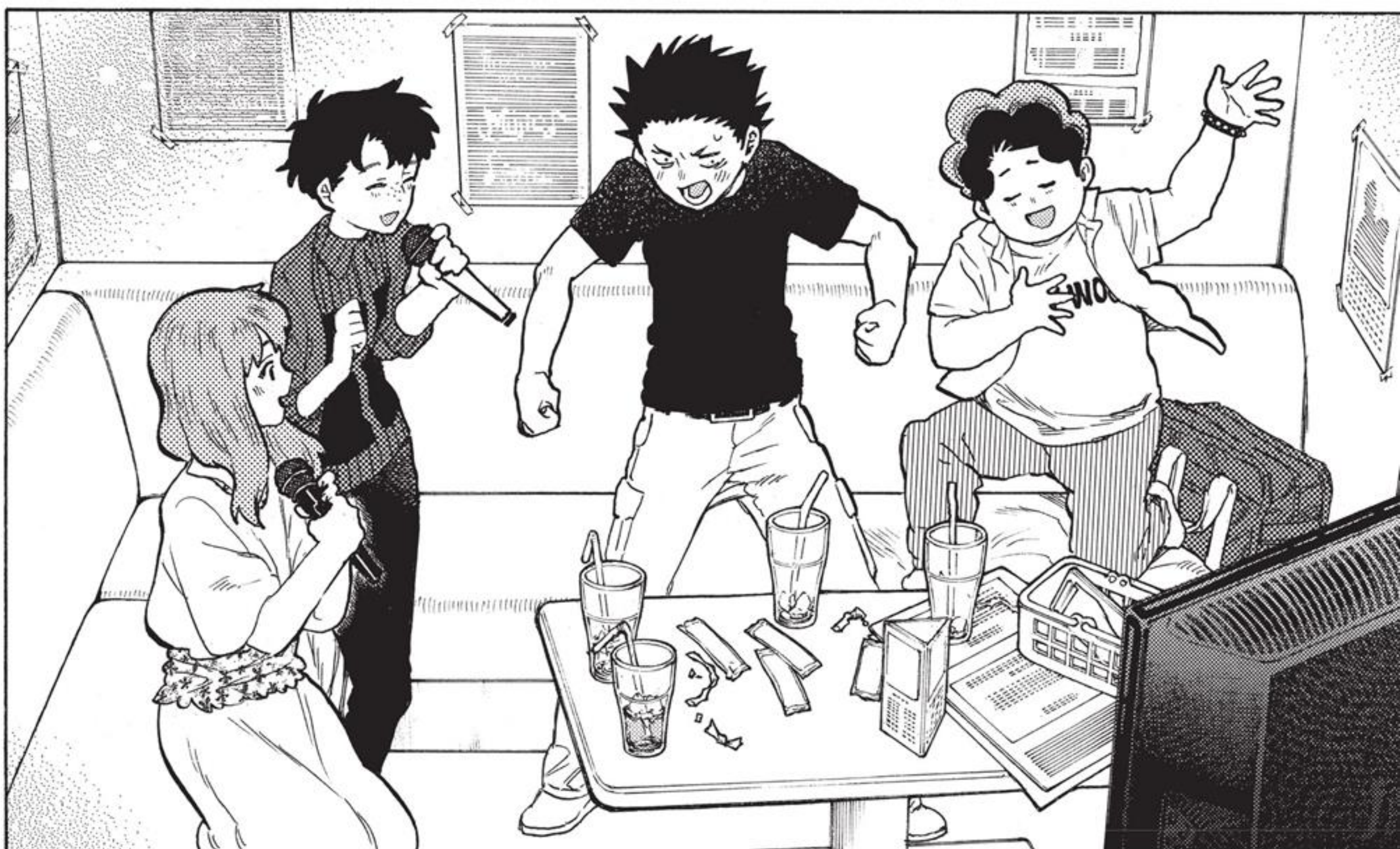
NO...
MAYBE
MIYOKO
JUST
MEANS
MORE
TO HER.

MAYBE
THE THINGS
I THOUGHT
WERE IN
NISHIMIYA'S
BEST
INTERESTS
ARE
IRRELEVANT
TO HER...

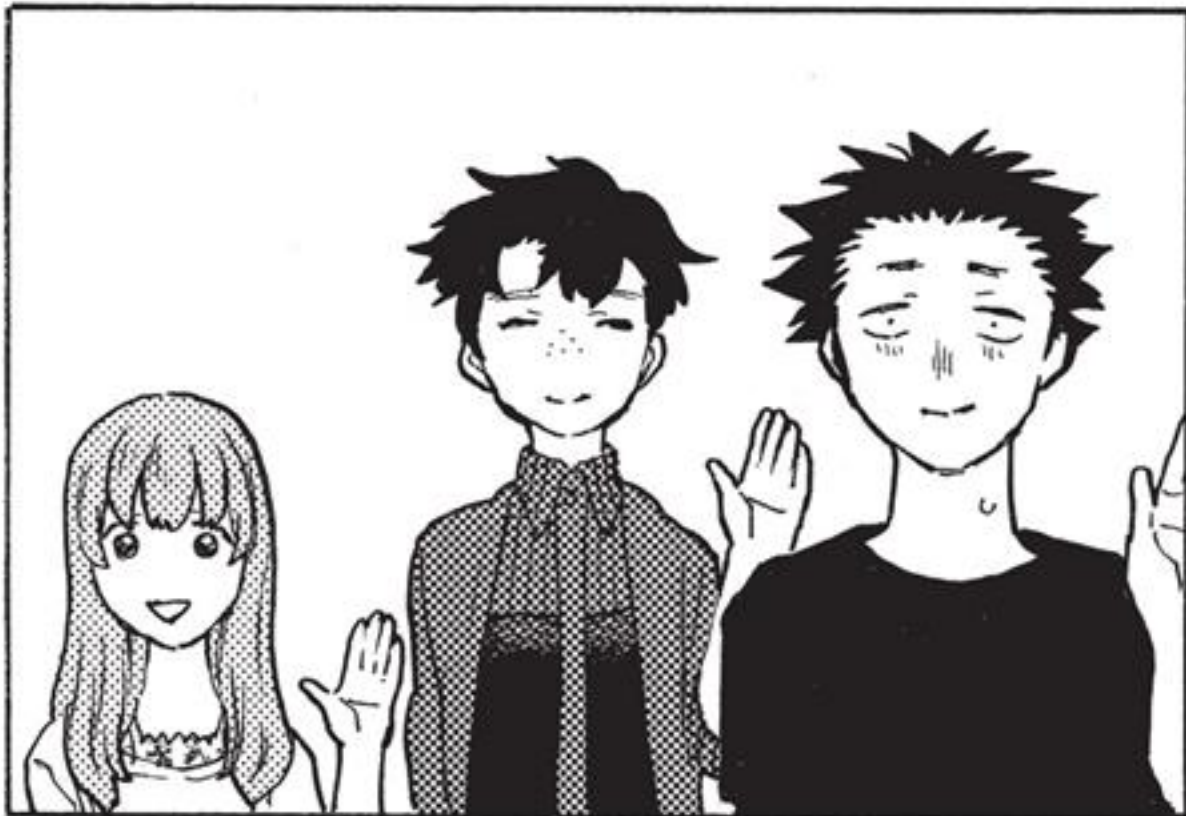
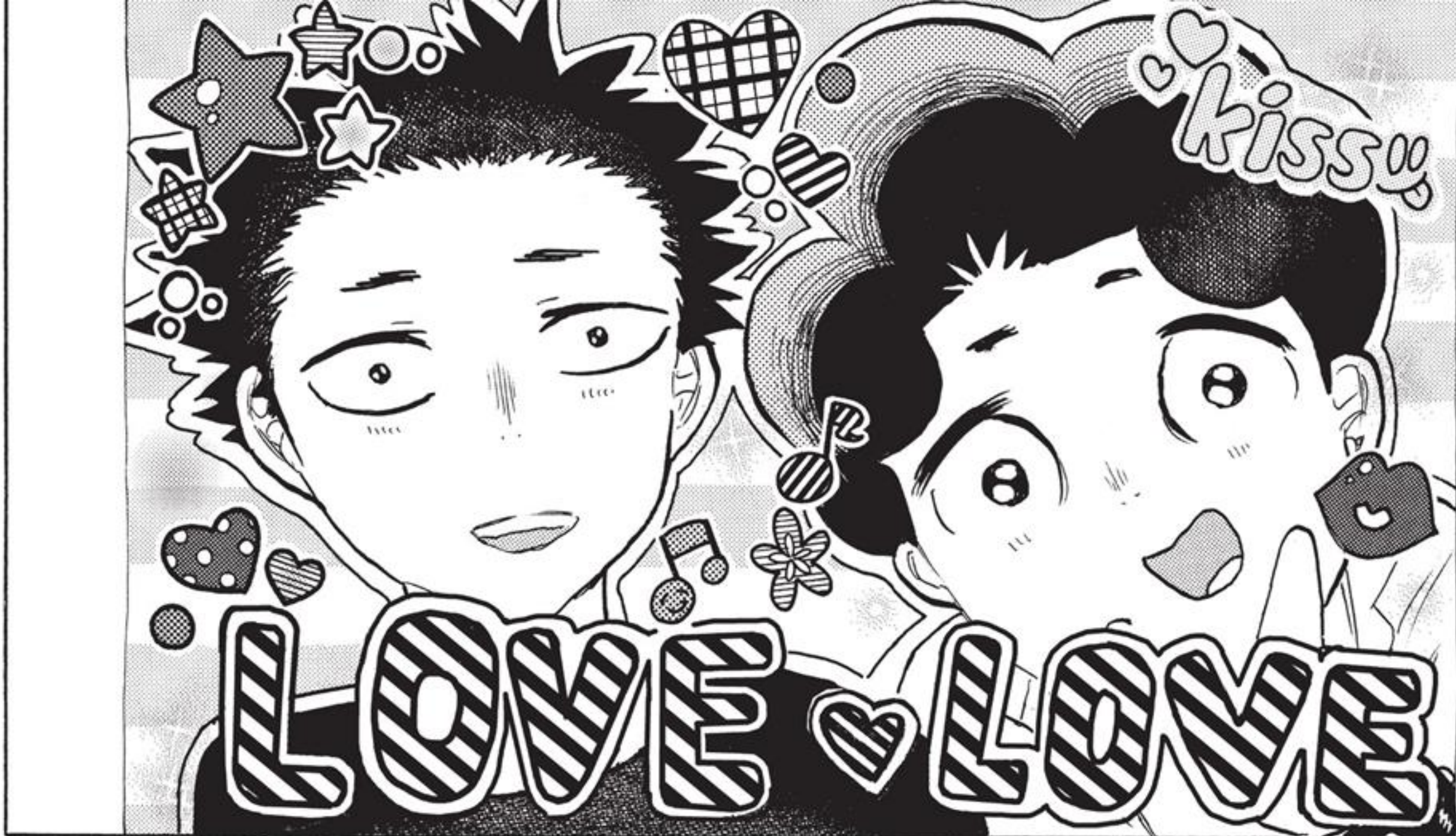


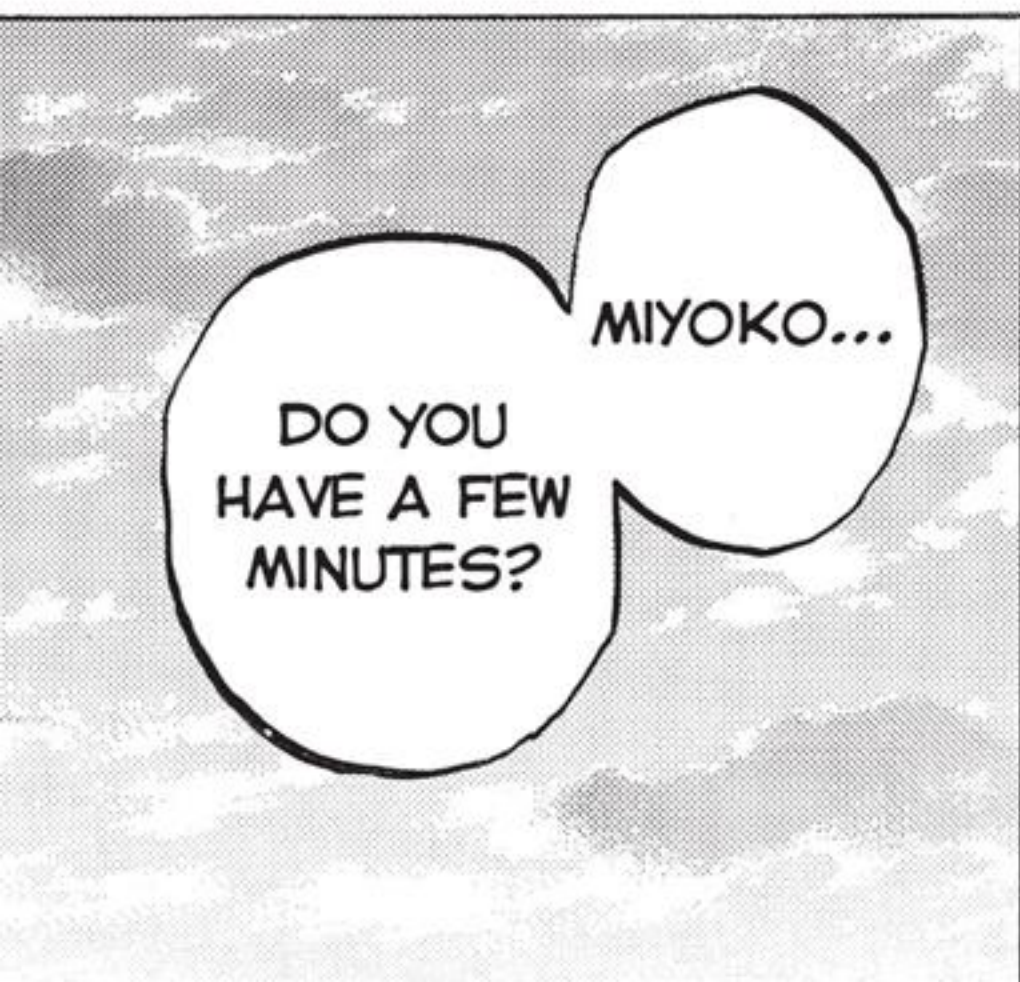
YA-SHO!

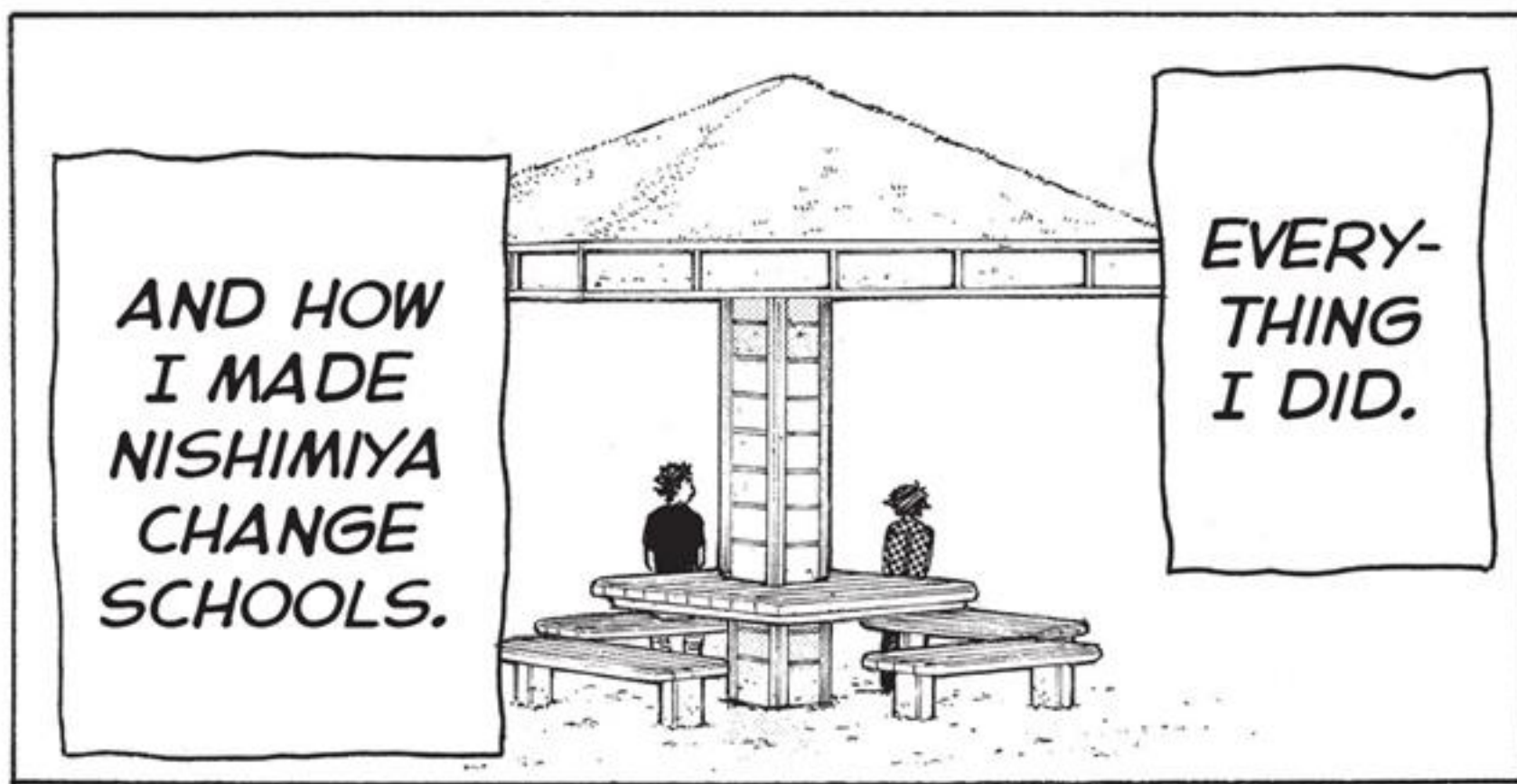












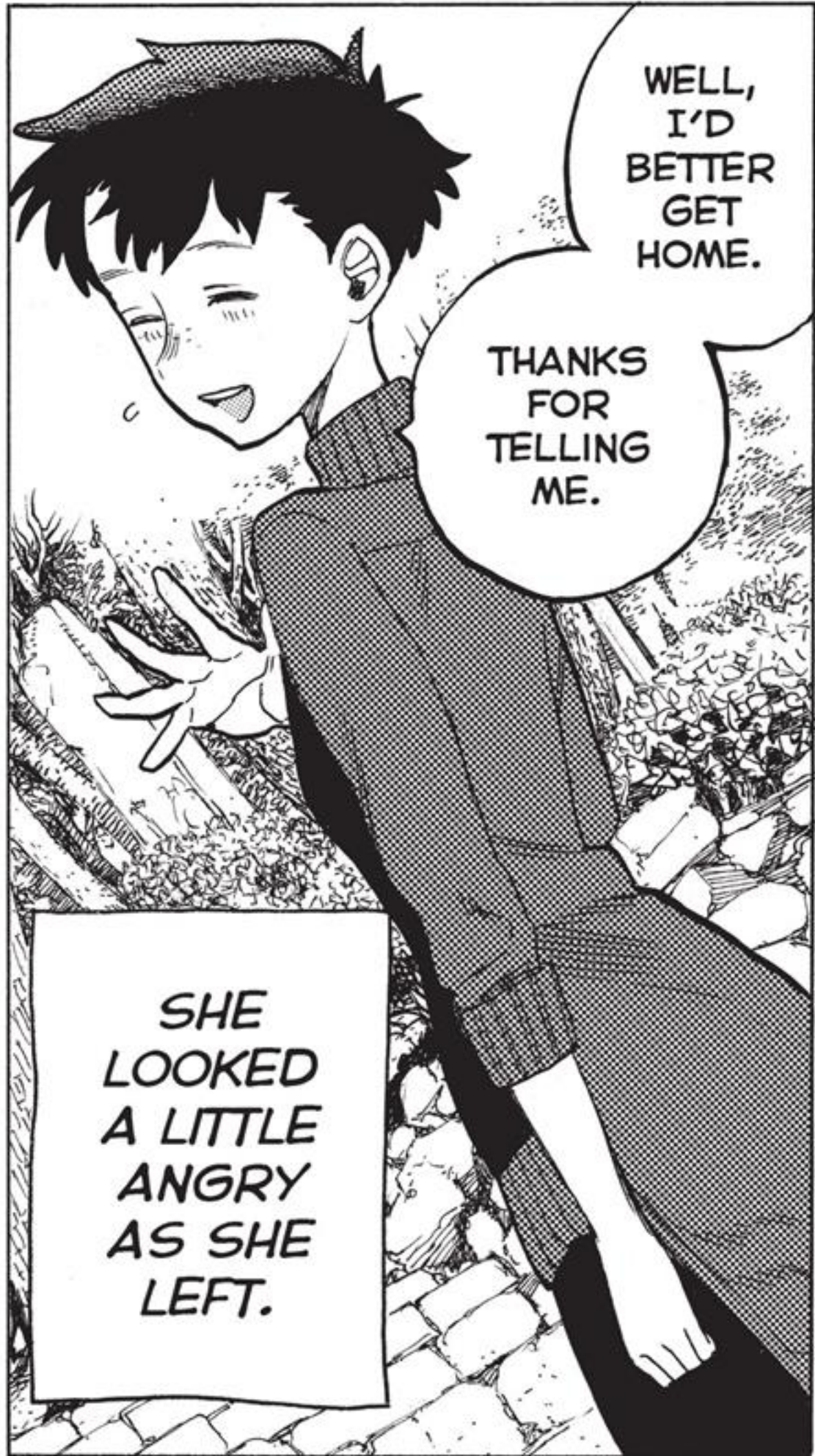
AND HOW
I MADE
NISHIMIYA
CHANGE
SCHOOLS.

EVERY-
THING
I DID.

I TOLD
HER
EVERY-
THING.



MIYOKO
SIMPLY
NODDED
IN
SILENCE.

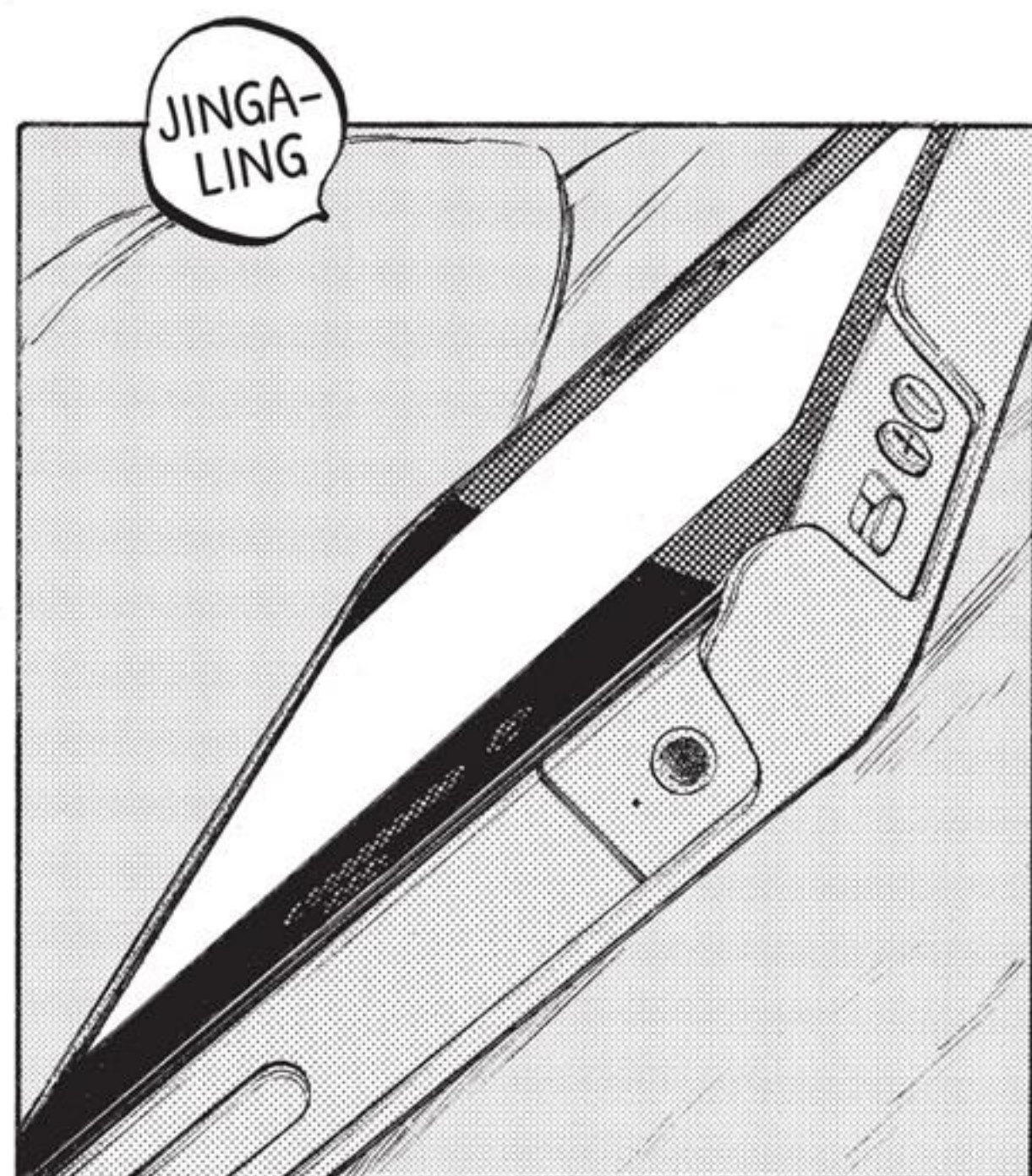


WELL,
I'D
BETTER
GET
HOME.

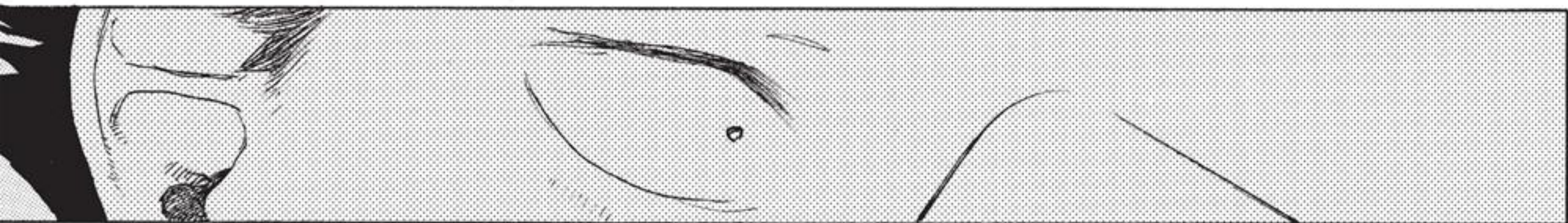
SHE
LOOKED
A LITTLE
ANGRY
AS SHE
LEFT.



THAT NIGHT,
I RECEIVED
A TEXT
MESSAGE
FROM
MIYOKO.



It's okay, Shoya.



**Since Sho was smiling,
I've decided to smile too.**

This is for you: (づ^V

